

RABIES PROTOCOL

MANAGEMENT OF DOGS & CATS EXPOSED TO OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS

(Wolf Hybrids and other exotic pets are considered to be wild animals)

Vaccination Status of Exposing Animal Not Relevant to Recommendations

Exposure Category	Exposed Dog or Cat is Currently or Not Currently Vaccinated	Exposed Dog or Cat is Unvaccinated
Category 1 Visible bite or scratch from another domestic animal which has been identified and is available for quarantine	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Biting animal will be placed under strict confinement for 10 days 3. A) If biting animal is healthy at the end of 10 days, victim is not at risk for rabies 3. B) If biting animal begins to exhibit signs compatible with rabies, biting animal should be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing 4. A) If test results are negative, victim is not at risk for rabies 4. B) If test results are positive, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Booster victim immediately 3. Strict Confinement by owner for 45 days 	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Biting animal will be placed under strict confinement for 10 days 3. A) If biting animal is healthy at the end of 10 days, victim is not at risk for rabies - vaccinate victim 3. B) If biting animal begins to exhibit signs compatible with rabies, biting animal should be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing 4. A) If test results are negative, victim is not at risk for rabies, vaccinate victim 4. B) If test results are positive, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Euthanize, or Vaccinate immediately and Isolate for 3 months followed by 1 month Strict Confinement
Category 2 Visible bite or scratch from another domestic animal which has NOT been identified and is NOT available for quarantine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Booster Immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 45 days 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Vaccinate immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 4 months

- Any non-domestic animal biting a human needs to be reported to the Department of Public Health
- Do not vaccinate any dog or cat which is under a 10-day quarantine
- Any animal euthanized while under a 10-day quarantine MUST be submitted for rabies testing
- If most recent rabies vaccination was administered within 28 days, it is not necessary to booster

1. "Not Currently Vaccinated" means there is proof that the animal has received a rabies vaccination at some point prior, but the duration that vaccine was good for has been exceeded.
2. "Unvaccinated" means the animal has never received a rabies vaccine, or the first shot was administered less than 28 days ago.
3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology: (617) 983-6800

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health

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Questions? (617) 626-1810